

TO: Juvenile Welfare Board Members
FROM: James E. Mills, Executive Director
Browning Spence, Director of Strategic and Community Planning

Requested Action

The Juvenile Welfare Board is requested to approve the release of a request for proposals (RFP) for the start up and implementation of a Safe Start Partnership Center, with funding of up to \$165,200 for the period April 15, 2002-October 30, 2002, and annualized funding of up to \$220,000 for each of three subsequent years, pending continuing federal funding.

Options

1. Approve the request.
2. Other action as the Board shall determine.
3. Deny the Request

Recommended Action

Approve the release of an RFP in the amount of \$165,200 (\$220,000 annualized) for the start up and implementation of a Safe Start Partnership Center.

Source of JWB Funds

Federal funding from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Fiscal Impact

The Phase II (5/1/01-10/31/02) Safe Start unallocated budget for contracts and consultation will be reduced by up to \$165,200.

Narrative

- The Safe Start Partnership Center is an essential component of the Pinellas Safe Start Strategic and Implementation Plans developed by community partners and approved by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.
- The Safe Start Partnership Center will function as the center of a network of supports and services for young children and families impacted by violence, and as a resource to the community for prevention and reduction of impact of children's exposure to violence.
- The expected outcomes include: early identification and rapid response to young children (primarily aged 0-6) and their families, improved access to, and quality of, services that prevent and reduce impact of violence, and increased community awareness.
- The program design and criteria for funding were developed with input from the Safe Start Leadership Council and other community stakeholders, as well as reference to literature about effective system integration strategies.
- The RFP is scheduled for release December 19. Board action is scheduled for 4/11/02.
- Safe Start Leadership Council members and other stakeholders participated in RFP development, and will review proposals to develop the recommendations to the Board.

Project description

- The purpose of the Safe Start Partnership Center is to provide a central point of access to services, information and other resources for:
 - Children exposed to violence, or at risk of exposure, and their families.
 - Law enforcement, social service agencies, community members, and others concerned about family and community violence.
- Funds awarded through this solicitation may be used for staff, consultants, start up expenses, operating supplies, rent and other operating expenses.
- Funds will not be awarded for capital construction or creating a new agency.
- It is anticipated that a collaborative service partnership of several strong organizations will be selected to operate the Safe Start Partnership Center.
- The principle functions of the Partnership Center will be:
 - Hotline – 24 hour telephone for access to on-call personnel for rapid response to children exposed to violence in crisis situations, and rapid access to referrals and information about issues and services related to children's exposure to violence.
 - Service – Short-term individual child and family support in order to identify needs and priorities, assistance with navigating the system and linking with community supports and services, and access to gap funding when appropriate.
 - Tracking of referrals, services, results and system gaps for Continuous Quality Improvement, evaluation, planning and advocacy.
 - Community awareness and education about impact of violence exposure on children, and related community resources and activities.
 - Management and administrative support necessary to meet project objectives.
- The project design is based on key findings of the community assessment:
 - Pinellas County is home to many young children (2000 census est. 64,844 age 0-6).
 - Many young children are exposed to violence as victims or witnesses or at high risk.
 - No organized system to respond to children who witness violence.
 - Gaps in coordination of existing services and barriers that limit access to services.
 - Limited capacity for treatment of trauma and other violence impact on young children.
 - Knowledge gap among general community and some providers about impact of violence exposure on child development, appropriate interventions, prevention strategies, and available resources for young children exposed to violence and their families.
- The approved Safe Start budget and plan includes additional funding for the following activities and resources, to be developed and implemented in coordination with the Safe Start Partnership Center:
 - Purchasing pool for developmental assessments and clinical services (gap funding).
 - Information and technology system to support web-based referrals, shared service data and tracking of results.
 - Training and technical assistance.
 - Community education and involvement.
 - Neighborhood based pilot projects to enhance or expand individual or group services that prevent and reduce impact of violence.
 - Evaluation and system level quality improvement.
- The Safe Start Partnership Center will work with grant staff, Leadership Council and various work groups and committees to accomplish project goals
- Multiple sources of funding will be sought to continue these services beyond the federal grant period, based on demonstrated effectiveness and community need.

Attachment: Safe Start Leadership Council representatives of member organizations.
Staff Resource Person: Judith L. Simpson, Program Manager, Pinellas Safe Start

Safe Start Leadership Council
Member Organizations and Representatives, updated December 4, 2001

Family Continuity Programs Mr. Jeff Richard	Help-A-Child, Inc. Ms. Patsy Buker
Family Continuity Programs Ms. Joi Lembke	Community Council Member Ms. Ruth Benjamin
Pinellas County Schools Ms. Elaine Cutler	Community Council Member Ms. Patricia Cullen-Turpin
Pinellas County Schools Dr. Ralph Bailey	Sixth Judicial Circuit Court Ms. Gay Inskeep
Pinellas County Sheriff's Office Child Protection & Investigation Capt. Rod Steckel	Pinellas County Administration Mr. James Dates
Pinellas County Sheriff's Office Child Protection & Investigation Ms. Nancy Sackett	Pinellas Police Standards Council Mr. Tom Lange
Pinellas County Health Department Ms. Wendy Loomas	Domestic Violence Task Force Ms. Frieda Widera
Pinellas County Health Department Claude Dharamraj, M.D.	Domestic Violence Task Force Ms. Kelly Twiss
School Readiness Coalition Mr. Winston Croft	State Attorney's Office Mr. Vance Arnett
FL Department of Children & Families Ms. Louise Upchurch	Healthy Start Coalition Ms. Debra Bara
FL Department of Children & Families Ms. Roslyn Connelly	University of South Florida Professor Bob Friedman
FL Department of Juvenile Justice Ms. Melinda Scott	Public Defender's Office Ms. Judy Estren
Juvenile Welfare Board Mr. Mike Stone	Juvenile Welfare Board Mr. James Mills